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SOURCE

1.

1949 Ball Bearing Requirements

Archivist of the United States
Next Review Date: 2008

"The annexed list of the 1949 ball bearing requirements was computed by the main administration for material supply. This list submitted by the Main Administration of the German Economic Commission comprises the requirements of the provinces and of the zonal enterprises. The German Trade Company unfortunately cannot yet make indications on ball bearing types and sizes, as the Province of Saxony has not yet reported these indications despite repeated urging.

The total requirements are as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Provincial plants | 1,305,147) | 3,505,022 |
| Zonal plants | 2,199,875) | |
| Soviet Corporation plants | 5,034,000 | |
| Total: | 8,539,022 | |

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The total ball bearing needs, according to types and sizes, cannot yet be ascertained, as the requirements (except engineering construction and electrical engineering) refer mainly to replenishing reserves and repairs. This can only be arranged according to experience. The new ball bearing production is largely required by the Main Administration for engineering construction and electrical engineering. The following facts must be stated with regard to this new production:

"The Soviet Zone of Germany 1949 ball bearing requirements amount to approximately 3.5 million pieces. The plan for the ball bearing production increase is based on these requirements. A monthly output of 300,000 pieces was projected which would correspond to an annual production of approximately 3.6 million pieces. The submitted plan is computed on the basis of this amount. The program probably cannot be achieved in full until 1950, as the necessary machines cannot be delivered before 1949.

1949 Ball Bearing Requirements

| Consumer | Ball bearing of 100mm outer diameter, radial bearings | | Roller bearing of 100 mm outer diameter | |
|---|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| | up to | exceeding | up to | exceeding |
| Mecklenburg | 38,900 | 354 | 1,427 | 207 |
| Braunenburg | 45,030 | 10,426 | 12,170 | 5,805 |
| Saxony | 485,200 | 11,300 | 80,900 | 4,550 |
| Saxony-Anhalt | 109,576 | 53,432 | 30,000 | 18,177 |
| Thuringia | 145,575 | 46,963 | 98,060 | 26,245 |
| BERLIN (Soviet Sector) | 60,000 | 5,000 | 8,000 | 350 |
| | 894,281 | 127,975 | 237,557 | 55,334 |
| | | | total: | 1,305,147 |
| Metallurgie | 6,470 | 2,118 | 3,612 | 1,687 |
| Engineering Construction | 904,649 | 27,401 | 214,772 | 18,292 |
| Mineral and earth | 4,586 | 654 | 4,005 | 98 |
| Chemical industry | 14,293 | 3,381 | 17,397 | 1,570 |
| Textile industry | 57,565 | 4,454 | 21,495 | 11,667 |
| Food industry | 61,044 | 7,631 | 14,838 | 8,011 |
| Agriculture and forestry | 40,000 | 400 | 105,000 | 800 |
| Post and communication | 1,500 | 1,000 | 1,500 | 1,000 |
| Power industry | 3,660 | 820 | 2,629 | 790 |
| Central administration and organization | 1,635 | 68 | 829 | -- |
| Communications | 249,612 | 116,420 | 487 | 270,025 |
| Trade and supply | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| | 1,345,014 | 164,357 | 286,564 | 303,940 |
| | | | total: | 2,199,875 |
| provincial enterprises: | | | 1,305,147 | |
| zonal plants | | | 2,199,875 | |
| Soviet Corporation Plants (requirements in the second half of 1948 - 2,517,000) | | | 5,034,000 | |
| Total: | | | 8,539,022 | |

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Comment:

a. The Soviet Zone of Germany always had to depend on imports to supply its industries with needed ball bearings as the German centers for ball bearing production are located in Bizonia. This situation has been made worse by the Soviet dismantling, especially of the BERLIN and ERKNER ball bearing plants.

b. In 1948 the Soviets abandoned their destructive economic policy and permitted the reconstruction of the Soviet Zone industries which is indicated by the Two Year Plan for 1949-1950. According to this plan, the 1950 production is scheduled to be 81 percent of the 1936 figures.

c. The prewar annual ball bearing needs of the Soviet Zone amounted to approximately fifteen million pieces. If the production of these industrial branches, which are ball bearing consumers, shall increase to 81 percent of the 1936 peacetime production at the end of the Two Year Plan, the approximate ball bearing requirements must be estimated at twelve million pieces. This report indicates the 1949 ball bearing requirements at only about 8.5 million pieces (including the needs of the Soviet Corporation plants.) It is also stated that this production figure cannot be attained until 1950, after the increase of the plant machine installations. The ball bearing needs therefore cannot yet be fully supplied by the Soviet Zone domestic production in 1950.

d. The ball bearing plants, which after Soviet dismantling were returned to the Germans and meanwhile were restored are located in:

BERLIN (Norddeutsche Kugellagerfabrik)
ERKNER near BERLIN ("Vereinigte Kugellagerfabriken - Combined Ball bearing Plants, Corp.)
STADTILM (M 51/J 34) ("Gelenkwellenwerk Thuringen VEB" - Thuringia Cardan Shaft Plant, nationalized plant, formerly "Rheinmetall- Borsig")
RONNEBURG/Thuringia (M 51/K 16) (formerly Richard Nitzsche and Co.)
FRAUREUTH/Thuringia (M 51/K 24), which is scheduled to be enlarged to become the important Soviet Zone Ball bearing plant.)

e. The ball bearing plants which were transferred into Soviet state property in 1946 and were assigned to the "Avtovelo" Soviet Corporation, are located in:

BOEHLITZ-EHRENBERG near LEIPZIG (M 52/E 42) (Deutsche Kugellagerfabrik)
ZELLA-MEHLIS (M 51/J 03) (Kugellagerfabrik - ball bearing plant Karl REICH)
MARIENTHAL - SCHWEDINA (M 52/J 68) (ball bearing plant HELLER)

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The production of ball bearings in the Eckhold firm, WEERNIGERODE (N 52/D 16), in the DRESEN (N 52/E 29) "Vogel & Schlegel" firm and the LAMBACH (N 51/A 56) Paessler Plants has not been confirmed.

4. The "zonal plants" mentioned in the report are sequestered former private plants which are directly subordinated to the German Economic Commission. The "provincial enterprises" are sequestered former private plants the management of which was left to the Soviet Zone provincial governments.

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